

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 259

By Stanley

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate the Junior Leagues of Tennessee upon the celebration of the 106th anniversary of the Junior League.

WHEREAS, the Association of Junior Leagues International is an organization of women committed to promoting volunteerism, developing the potential of women, and improving communities through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. Its purpose is exclusively educational and charitable; and

WHEREAS, the Junior League reaches out to women of all races, religions, and national origins who demonstrate an interest in and commitment to volunteerism; and

WHEREAS, the 294 Junior Leagues throughout the United States, Canada, Mexico, and Great Britain have a collective membership of more than 175,000; and Nashville and Memphis are two of the larger leagues in the world; and

WHEREAS, in 1901, Mary Harriman, a 19-year-old college student from a socially prominent family, founded the first Junior League in New York City, to involve those more fortunate in helping people in need; and

WHEREAS, in 1921, thirty Junior Leagues joined together to form the Association of Junior Leagues International to collectively advance their work; and

WHEREAS, in 1930, the Junior League formed its first State Public Affairs Committee, now known as the Advocacy and Public Awareness Committee, to influence public welfare policy and educate its membership of such issues; and

WHEREAS, Junior Leagues provide hundreds of thousands of volunteer hours every year to address issues in their local communities, including child abuse and neglect, domestic violence, affordable day care, pregnancy prevention, substance abuse prevention, HIV/AIDS

education, breast cancer awareness, school readiness, literacy, and health care for children; and

WHEREAS, the Junior Leagues of Tennessee represent the collective membership of Bristol, Chattanooga, Johnson City, Kingsport, Knoxville, Memphis, Murfreesboro, and Nashville; and

WHEREAS, the Junior Leagues of Tennessee boast a membership of more than 6,500 members that provide annual community contributions in excess of \$2.5 million and perform over 2.5 million hours of community service to develop and improve our communities; and

WHEREAS, the Junior Leagues of Tennessee's exemplary community service projects include *Music in the Meadow* symphony concerts in Bristol; *Healthy Starts*, an initiative in partnership with the Chattanooga-Hamilton County Health Department; READ Chattanooga; and Ronald McDonald House Charities/T.C. Thompson Children's Hospital to respond to demonstrated challenges to children's health in Chattanooga; the *Children's Advocacy Center* for child sexual abuse victims in Johnson City; the *Joy Baker Center* parenting program and daycare facility in Knoxville; the *Hope House* daycare center for children affected with AIDS in Memphis; the *Children's Discovery Center* promoting multiculturalism, acceptance, and tolerance in Murfreesboro; and the Oasis Center, a drop in center for youth who are homeless or in imminent danger of homelessness in Nashville; and

WHEREAS, the Junior League of Nashville recently approved the giving of a \$450,000 Founder's Gift to Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt for the creation of an NICU Development Follow-Up Clinic and New Center for Child Development in Nashville; and

WHEREAS, the Junior Leagues of Tennessee Advocacy and Public Awareness Committee is a state level coalition formed and owned by the Junior Leagues of Tennessee to facilitate networking, coordinate information and research, promote awareness, and advocate on issues of shared interest; and

WHEREAS, the Junior League is committed to supporting efforts to develop women and children's potential and improving their communities through the leadership of trained volunteers in Junior Leagues statewide; and

WHEREAS, past notable members of the Junior League include Eleanor Roosevelt, Betty Ford, Nancy Reagan, Barbara Bush, and Sandra Day O'Connor; and

WHEREAS, illustrious members of the Junior Leagues of Tennessee include Judge Shirley Underwood, Martha Ingram, and our own Representative Beth Harwell; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we pause in our deliberations to honor and commend this excellent community-focused, volunteer training organization; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor and commend the officers and members of the Junior Leagues of Tennessee and its Advocacy and Public Awareness Committee in celebrating eighty-five years of volunteerism in Tennessee, reflecting with deep appreciation on their numerous contributions to their community, state, and country. We wish them much continued success in all of their future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.